

Administration of Jimmy Carter, 1980

Apr. 3

family please stand? Mr. White's remarkable contribution to the visual culture is now deeply a part of American art. He was born in 1918. He died last October in Chicago. He lived in Los Angeles, California, and we are very proud to have his family here with us today.

The next is represented by his nephew, Dr. Ray Bennett, and I would like to recognize Hale Woodruff. Is Dr. Bennett here? Hale Woodruff is a painter, printmaker, a muralist, and educator. He's recognized especially for the range of his talent to paint anything and anybody. He was born in 1900 in Cairo, Illinois, and he currently lives in New York City.

I think that all of you know the quality of the work that we are recognizing today and the difficulty under which this remarkable talent has developed. And I'm especially grateful, as a southerner and as a President, that in the evolution of their own expression of the deep commitment of human beings, courage under difficult circumstances, triumph over tragedy, a constant expression of courage, and the exemplification of the finest development of the human mind, to show us what we are, what we might be.

It's a distinct honor for me to be here, to recognize this remarkable group of Americans. Thank you very much for letting me take part in this ceremony.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:34 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

General Accounting Office Act of 1980

*Statement on Signing H.R. 24 Into Law.
April 3, 1980*

I have today signed into law H.R. 24, the General Accounting Office Act of 1980. This legislation is the product of

extensive discussions between the executive branch and the Congress. The passage of this law reflects the importance we all place on sound auditing practices within the Federal Government. This act is another in a series of laws sponsored by Representative Brooks and Senator Glenn to assure that the taxpayers' dollars are spent as the Congress has directed.

This legislation involves complex issues with constitutional implications, and its passage required negotiations in good faith by all parties. I am confident that this cooperative spirit will extend to the implementation of the act's provisions.

The General Accounting Office Act of 1980 will for the first time permit the GAO to audit most of the confidential expenditures made by agencies, which are now authorized solely by the signature of the President or agency head. While this legislation requires that the GAO determine whether an expenditure has been made as authorized by law, it also stipulates that confidentiality must be maintained. For instance, the specific details of and the identities of individuals involved in law enforcement investigations need not be disclosed to the GAO in order for it to carry out its statutory responsibilities. Audits of certain highly sensitive financial transactions of the Department of State must also be conducted with utmost confidentiality.

In addition, this act establishes procedures by which the GAO may gain access to the documents and records of Federal agencies, contractors, and grantees, and it provides for judicial enforcement of the GAO's written requests and subpoenas.

A third major feature of the act establishes a formal procedure by which congressional leadership may recommend individuals to the President for appointment to the positions of Comptroller General and Deputy. Because the General Accounting Office is the Congress main

Apr. 3

Administration of Jimmy Carter, 1980

auditing and investigating agent, the recommendations of the congressional leaders will be of particular assistance to the President in his selection of nominees for these positions.

NOTE: As enacted, H.R. 24 is Public Law 96-226, approved April 3.

15,000 acres of land. In developing the plan, the Department of the Interior will study closely the needs of the tribe for enlargement of its reservation and make every effort to meet those needs without the expenditure of public funds.

NOTE: As enacted, H.R. 4996 is Public Law 96-227, approved April 3.

Regulatory Reform Legislation

*Statement on Approval by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.
April 3, 1980*

I am delighted that the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee has approved the bill to reform regulatory procedures (S. 262). The unanimous vote of the committee this morning means that we have taken another major step toward making regulations more cost-effective and more efficient. I hope that the Congress will take quick action to pass the legislation. It is an important part of our long-range program to minimize the inflationary impact of Federal regulations on the Nation's economy.

Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Restoration Act

*Statement on Signing H.R. 4996 Into Law.
April 3, 1980*

I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 4996, a bill to restore the Federal trust relationship and Federal services and benefits to the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah.

The bill requires that within 2 years, the Secretary of the Interior develop and submit to the Congress a plan for the enlargement of the tribe's reservation, including the acquisition of not more than

National Nursing Home Week, May 11-18, 1980

Message of the President. April 3, 1980

Frail and vulnerable people should have a primary place in the minds and hearts of all Americans. Many of them turn to nursing homes for the support and care they cannot find elsewhere.

On the occasion of National Nursing Home Week, I salute the hundreds of thousands of persons who give of themselves unselfishly in serving our senior citizens. I also applaud and congratulate those facilities which aspire to the highest ideals of this service.

Care of the frail and vulnerable is not always easy, but those who have provided it unstintingly and with devotion know that it has its rewards.

There is nothing more reprehensible than the exploitation of those who are defenseless. We therefore owe our special thanks to those in the health care field who consistently work to improve the quality of life of nursing home inhabitants.

On this occasion I call upon the American people to make our nursing homes an integral part of our communities. The conditions that prevail in them should reflect the compassionate concern of community groups, families, churches, service and labor organizations and private individuals. And the quality of attention they provide should be a credit to the